

# Shipping and Immigration

It is important to find a point of entry into Australia for your ancestors as this will tell you where and when you need to start looking for overseas records. When you are using tools such as the IGI (International Genealogical Index) it is very helpful to know which country and which county to search.

You may be fortunate and have no problem in discovering the entry of your first arrival in Australia. Sometimes the full death certificate for a person may provide clues to the year of arrival, parents' names and place of origin, or an entry in a family bible or letters may give clues.

Quite often, however, you will find no clues as to how your ancestor arrived. Shipping records are perhaps the most inaccessible of all genealogy records, and finding ancestors in these can be very difficult. It is important to remember that Australia was just another part of England until Federation, and travel to and fro was like going from one part of England to another. Unless the government was involved, records were not considered important.

People came to the colonies in different ways.



## **Convicts**

In the years 1788-1842 many people came to Australia as convicts. Because they were under government control, many different kinds of records were kept for them. See the Convicts information sheet for further details.



## **Assisted immigrants - NSW**

In the early days of the Australian colonies (1828 - 1896), the British government paid for people to come out and settle the country. These people were known as assisted or bounty immigrants. Because their way was being paid by the government, accurate and detailed records were kept, and these have been indexed. In NSW they are indexed by immigrant's name - on reels for the years 1828-1842, and in book format for the years 1844-1896. There was no assisted immigration in the year 1843. The index gives a film reference. Once a record is found, details such as native place, port of embarkation, ages of family members and details of relatives already in the colony are usually given.

There are also indexes of wives and families of convicts on bounty ships (1849-55), indexes to members of the Family Colonization Loan Society (1854-57 ) and Passenger Lists of the Family Colonization Loan Society (1854-55).



### Free paying passengers - NSW

Microfilm reels of passenger lists for people arriving in NSW on ships during the years 1826-1900 do exist. These are in chronological order by ship and, except for the years 1826-55 are NOT indexed. This makes it very difficult to find entries for ancestors unless you have some idea of date of arrival or ships name. Even if you know the ships name and year of arrival, often only the first class passengers are listed by name, with a count of those travelling steerage class. The best that can be done is to 'guesstimate' the years of arrival and look through the records for each ship which arrived. You could also send for a death certificate, check the Probate list and search newspapers for death notices and obituaries which often give date of arrival and place of birth. Don't forget to check the 1828 Census if you think your ancestor arrived before this date.



### Military ancestors

The British army was Australia's military force until 1901. Therefore records pertaining to people who served in these forces will be British. Many of these records are in the Public Records Office in London. The various State libraries and the National Library of Australia are also a good source of information. The National Library has many PRO records on microfilm, which may be requested on inter library loan. To find out if any of these are relevant check the Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP) handbooks in the genealogy collection. Other resources which might be of use are:

A soldier in the family - a source book for Australian military genealogy : the first fleet to the Gulf war	Box, Allan	BOOK
Army records : a guide for family historians William Spencer.	Spencer, William, 1963-	BOOK
British army records as sources for biography and genealogy		BOOK
How to trace your military ancestors	Reakes, Janet	BOOK
In search of the "forlorn hope" : a comprehensive guide to locating British regiments and their records (1640-WWI)	Kitzmilller, John M. (John Michael), 1953-	BOOK
Muster rolls and paylists : 100th Regiment 1816-1818, N.S.W. Corps 1789-1796, Veteran Company N.S.W. 1810-1818	Great Britain Army	MICROFORM
The Army index 1787	Queensland Family History Society.	CDROM
The British Army in Australia 1788-1870 : index of personnel James Hugh Donohoe.	Donohoe, James Hugh, 1941-	CDROM
The deserters	Sexton, Rae	BOOK
The N.S.W. Corps Muster roll 1790 and 1791		MICROFORM



## Other States

### ■ Queensland:

There is an index to passenger arrivals into Queensland covering the years 1848-1923 on microfiche. The index refers you to the microfilmed immigration books. These reels are in chronological order according to the port of arrival, and there is a name index for passengers at the beginning of each reel.

### ■ Victoria:

Inward passenger lists, foreign ports, 1852-1889
Assisted German immigrants. Passenger lists and index 1849-1850
Assisted immigrants to Port Phillip, 1839-51
Passengers from overseas to Port Phillip district pre-1852 Overseas and inter-colonial ports 1846-1852 Inward passenger lists, British ports 1852-1879.

### ■ South Australia

Bound for South Australia : passenger lists 1836-1851
Unassisted immigrants & coastal passengers to Hobart Tasmania 1829 - 1865
Index of assisted immigrants (into Tasmania) 1841-1889
Shipping arrivals and departures : Tasmania. Volume 1. 1803-1833.
Unassisted immigrants and coastal passengers to Hobart 1829-1865

### ■ Western Australia

Passenger Arrivals in Western Australia 1898 to 1925
Passenger arrivals in Western Australia, 1839-1890

### ■ Tasmania

Unassisted immigrants & coastal passengers to Hobart Tasmania 1829 - 1865
Index of assisted immigrants (into Tasmania) 1841-1889
Shipping arrivals and departures : Tasmania. Volume 1. 1803-1833.
Unassisted immigrants and coastal passengers to Hobart 1829-1865